

Agricultural Prices

UTAH: Prices received by Utah farmers and ranchers during mid-March 2003, compared with February 2003, were down for barley, and alfalfa hay and unchanged for other hay, according to the Utah Agricultural Statistics Service.

The lamb price for February 2003 was \$91.00 per cwt, up \$23.00 from March 2002. The February 2003 sheep price, at \$41.00 was \$9.00 above March 2002.

Barley, at \$2.46 per bushel, was down 6 cents from the previous month's price but 12 cents above last year. Baled alfalfa hay was \$90.00 per ton, down \$3.00 from last month and \$5.00 below last year. Other hay, at \$63.00 per ton, was unchanged from last month but \$6.00 higher than March 2002.

UNITED STATES: The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in March is 99, based on 1990-92=100, unchanged from the February index. Higher prices for tomatoes, onions, oranges and chicken eggs offset lower prices for cattle, dairy, strawberries and wheat.

The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3 years average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings for strawberries, tomatoes, dairy, and asparagus offset decreases for cattle, cotton, corn, and oranges.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 7 (6.6 percent) points from March 2002. Lower prices for lettuce strawberries, potatoes, and celery more than offset higher prices for soybeans, corn, onions, and broilers.

Average Prices Received by Farmers

Commodity	Unit	Utah			United States		
		Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
		Mar 2002	Feb 2003	Mar 2003 ¹	Mar 2002	Feb 2003	Mar 2003 ¹
Livestock & Products							
Lambs	Dol/Cwt	68.00	91.00	(²)	66.70	92.40	(²)
Sheep	Dol/Cwt	32.00	41.00	(²)	31.80	43.60	(²)
Crops							
Barley	Dol/Bu	2.34	2.52	2.46	2.17	2.87	2.92
Alfalfa Hay, Baled	Dol/Ton	95.00	93.00	90.00	99.60	96.40	96.20
Other Hay, Baled	Dol/Ton	57.00	63.00	63.00	72.70	79.40	82.30

¹ Prices refer to sales occurring about the 15th of the month.

² March data will be published next month.